



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - August 4, 2003

- ***In the West***, favorably cooler weather prevails across the ***northern Rockies and Northwest***, accompanied by widely scattered showers. Although the showers are benefiting rangelands and aiding wildfire containment efforts, they are too late to help some ***Northwestern*** small grains. Beneficial showers also dot the ***southern Rockies***, but hot, dry weather is returning to the remainder of the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, cool weather and thundershowers are maintaining generally favorable conditions for summer crops across the ***eastern Dakotas***, while unfavorably hot weather persists across ***southern portions of the region***. Elsewhere, scattered showers are providing varying degrees of drought relief, following more than a month of hotter- and drier-than-normal weather.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a nearly stationary storm system continues to provide cooler-than-normal weather, accompanied by showers in ***eastern parts of the region***. Significant stress on ***Midwestern*** summer crops has been largely confined to the ***southwesternmost Corn Belt***, encompassing areas along, south, and west of the ***Missouri River***.
- ***In the South***, showers are maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture for pastures and immature summer crops from the ***lower Mississippi Valley eastward***, but soil moisture shortages are becoming more apparent in a few areas ***west of the Delta***.

Outlook: Unsettled weather will persist for much of the week across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, as a warm, humid airmass will help to spark occasional showers from the ***Mississippi Valley eastward to the Atlantic Coast***. Meanwhile, early- to mid-week showers and thunderstorms will accompany a disturbance tracking southeastward across the ***northern Rockies, northern and central Plains, and middle Mississippi Valley***. In the ***West***, hot, dry weather will intensify across the ***Southwest and Great Basin***, while beneficial showers are expected in the ***southern Rockies and Pacific Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 9-13 calls for above-normal temperatures in a broad swath from the ***Southwest to the northern and central Plains and upper Midwest***. Meanwhile, cooler-than-normal weather will prevail in the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, as well as parts of the ***Pacific Northwest***. Above-normal precipitation will linger in the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast across the ***central and southern Plains and the Southwest***.

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